that an estimate had been called for from the Chief Engineer, but that nothing further was done and stated that the difficulties of the ryots would not be over until the scheme was completed.

He then suggested that manure should be issued to the ryots on the credit system.

Loans under the Agricultural Improvement Loans Regulation were not being issued for the sinking of wells to the extent desired. Interest on such loans below Rs. 300 should be reduced.

The following improvements to the means of communication in the taluk were also suggested :—

1. A bridge across the river at Puthur and the improvement of the road leading to Mulakarachanpara mettu.

2. A road from Puliyara to the new Railway Station at Bhagavathipuram.

3. Improvement of the road from Puliyara to the Arienkavu Railway tunnel.

4. A road from Munnuvaikal (cusba) to Karkudy.

5. A bridge across the river at Aykudi connecting it with Varadayyan Gramom.

He also proposed the formation of an Irrigation Board for the Quilon Division, and urged that the *marakals* and *padis* used in the Shencotta taluk should be examined and stamped by the taluk authorities before they were issued for use, in order to prevent the use of fraudulent measures. Lastly, he protested against the ryots being forced to sell their paddy at reduced rates when the prices of all other necessaries had gone high.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar and the Executive Engineer, Quilon Division, have been ordered to conduct a joint inspection of the routes from Puliyara to the Bhagavathipuram Railway Station. The other points are noted.

167. Hardships experienced by the poor on account of the levy of duty on head-loads of firewood.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar B. A. (Member, Shencotta taluk) represented that the levy of a duty on head-loads of fire-wood removed from the forests was a great hardship to the poor people. Removal of firewood free of duty was permitted till recently and the duty was a recent impost. The poor women who were making a living had to undergo much difficulty and inconvenience for getting the pass, for which each had to pay 9 pies, and which they had to show to the authorities in the forest. The average monthly receipts amounted only to about Rs. 20 and the system prevailed only in the Shencotta taluk. He, therefore, suggested its abolition without delay.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be looked into.

168. Certain suggestions regarding the Education of Mahomedans.

Mr. Gnaniar Sayyid Taha Sahib (Member, Nominated) said that the Mahomedan community was very backward in education and requested Government to make every effort to improve their condition. The first thing to be done in the matter was the appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector who was well acquainted with Arabic. He was aware that the appointment had been sanctioned and prayed that a suitable person might soon be nominated.

Dewan's reply.— The matter is under consideration.

169. Need for the re-constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly based on statutory enactment.

Mr. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, Ettumanur taluk) first conveyed the grateful acknowledgments of the people of his taluk to the Dewan for the ready and favorable reply he gave to the representation about the school-building.

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